

Central Country Zone

MINUTES

Held at:
Eric Farrow Pavilion
Wagin Sportsground
Ballagin Street, Wagin WA

Commenced at 9:32am
Friday 20 August 2021

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Central Country Zone

Meeting held at:

Eric Farrow Pavilion
Wagin Sportsground
Ballagin Street, Wagin WA

Commenced at 9.32am, Friday 20 August 2021

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Announcements

Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuinness welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

1.2 Host Council Presentation – Shire of Wagin

Councillor Phillip Blight presented to the Zone, highlighting the work currently being undertaken in the Shire of Wagin to improve the CBD and the Shire's facilities. Namely improving lighting, parking facilities, promotion and involvement in community events, upgrading the Wetlands to have better toilet facilities as well as improving the environment to welcome native turtles to the lagoons. The addition of an eco-orientated playground and the extensive planting of shrubs and trees.

Cr Blight highlighted attractions within Wagin, particularly the Trots that run 6 meetings a year, the Pony Club and the annual Woolorama event that attracts thousands of attendees over the two day event and encompasses volunteers as far as Kulin and Boyup Brook.

Cr Blight also shared that the Shire is renewing the sports grounds precinct which is heavily used by the community of Wagin.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's

Cr Brett McGuinness (Chair)	Councillor, Shire of Quairading
Cr Barry West (Deputy Chair)	President Shire of Kulin
Cr Don Davis	President, Shire of Beverley
Mr Stephen Gollan	CEO, Shire of Beverley
Cr Katrina Crute	President, Shire of Brookton
Cr Neil Walker	Deputy President, Shire of Brookton
Ms Kellie Bartley	Manager Corporate and Community Services, Shire of Brookton
Cr Des Hickey	President Shire of Corrigin
Ms Natalie Manton	CEO, Shire of Corrigin
Cr Marilyn Hasleby	Councillor, Shire of Dumbleyung
Mr Garrick Yandle	CEO, Shire of Kulin
Cr Len Armstrong	President, Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Ross Chappell	Councillor, Shire of Lake Grace
Mr Alan George	CEO, Shire of Lake Grace
President Leigh Ballard	President, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Tim Wiese	Deputy President, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Bill Mulroney	President, Shire of Pingelly
Cr Jackie McBurney	Deputy President, Shire of Pingelly
Mr Andrew Dover	CEO, Shire of Pingelly

Cr Wayne Davies
Cr Phillip Blight
Cr Greg Ball
Cr Bryan Kilpatrick
Mr Bill Atkinson
Cr Ian Turton
Cr Kevin King
Mr Ian Fitzgerald
Mr Jarrod Logie
Mr Geoff McKeown

President, Shire of Quairading
President, Shire of Wagin
Deputy President, Shire of Wagin
Councillor, Shire of Wagin
CEO, Shire of Wagin
President, Shire of Wandering
President, Shire of West Arthur
A/CEO Shire of West Arthur
President, Shire of Williams
CEO, Shire of Williams

Guests:

Hon Shelley Payne MLC
Warren Pearce
Dayna O'Leary
Mandy Walker
Sanjeev Gupta

Member for the Agricultural Region
CEO, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
Policy Officer, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Development and Delivery Manager, Main Roads

WALGA Representatives:

Mr Tony Brown
Ms Naoimh Donaghy
Ms Susie Moir
Rodney Thornton

Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services
Governance and Organisational Services Officer
Policy Manager Resilient Communities, Strategy, Policy and Planning
Roadwise

Apologies

Cr Chris Pepper
Mr Ian D'Arcy
Cr Mike Weguelin
Cr Mark Conley
Cr Eliza Dowling
Mr Gary Sherry
Cr Julie Ramm
Mr Gavin Treasure
Cr Grant Robins
Mr Dale Stewart
Cr Jo Haythornthwaite
Mr Graeme Fardon
Cr Graeme Parsons
Ms Belinda Knight
Cr Julie Russell
Cr Julie McFall

Deputy President, Shire of Beverley
CEO Shire of Brookton
Deputy President, Shire of Corrigin
President, Shire of Cuballing
Councillor, Shire of Cuballing
CEO, Shire of Cuballing
President, Shire of Dumbleyung
CEO, Shire of Dumbleyung
Deputy President, Shire of Kulin
CEO Shire of Narrogin
Deputy President, Shire of Quairading
CEO, Shire of Quairading
Councillor, Shire of Wandering
CEO Shire of Wandering
President, Shire of Wickiepin
Councillor, Shire of West Arthur

Hon Mia Davies MLA
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC
Hon Darren West MLC
Hon Steve Martin MLC
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC
Hon Sandra Carr MLC
Hon Laurie Graham MLC
Mr Rick Wilson MP
Mr Peter Rundle MLA

Member for Central Wheatbelt
Member for the Agricultural Region
Member for the Agricultural Region
Member for the Agricultural Region
Member for the Agricultural Region
Member for the Agricultural Region
Member for Agricultural Region
Member for O'Connor
Member for Roe

Rob Cossart
Craig Manton
Ms Karen Strange
Ms Jenifer Collins

Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer
Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads
Deputy Chair RDA Wheatbelt
Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. 6.1. Minutes – Central Country Zone 25 June 2021
2. 8.3. Model Code of Conduct
3. 5.4. Minutes - CCZ Executive Committee Meeting 11 August 2021
4. 9.4. WALGA President's Report

The following are attachments which were provided at the meeting:

5. 12.3. Main Roads Report
6. 4.1. AMEC presentation
7. 6.1. State Councillor Report
8. 12.4. Wheatbelt RDA Report

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda September 2021](#)

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NIL

4. **GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

4.1 Warren Pearce, CEO, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies

Warren Pearce, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, had been invited to speak at the August meeting of the Zone. His presentation ensured that Local Governments (as well as other key stakeholders – MPs, WDC, WAFF etc) were aware of the increased activity – the companies involved, and how they are approaching their exploration programs and surrounding communities.

Information was provided on:

- Why there is increased mineral exploration now taking place across the Wheatbelt – and what that means for the region.
- The basics around mineral exploration, land access, and how it interacts with other land users / landholders.
- The companies that are taking up tenure and where and what they are exploring for.

In addition any questions from Zone delegates can be responded to or taken on notice.

Warren's presentation is attached to the Minutes (Attachment 6)

5. **MINUTES**

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 25 June 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday 25 June 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Barry West

Seconded: Cr Don Davis

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 25 June 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 25 June 2021

5.2.1, Item 8.3, Zone Discussion on the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

At the June meeting of the Zone, it was resolved:

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Crute Seconded: Cr McFall

1. That the Central Country Zone strongly supports WALGA's position on the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 which reads:

"WALGA:

- Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and
- Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members."

2. That the Central Country Zone write to the Minister for Local Government and Leader of the Opposition advocating WALGA's position.

The Zone received the attached response (Attachment 2) in response to our letter.

NOTED

5.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 11 August 2021

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

5.3.1 Item 5.3, Electoral Reform

Background:

The Zone resolved 2 motions in respect to Electoral Reform at the June Zone meeting as follows;

"That the Central Country Zone request WALGA undertake a social media campaign to emphasise the importance of regional, rural and remote political representation as detailed in its submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform"

"That the Central Country Zone Executive meet with Government Members for the Agricultural Region in the Legislative Council to discuss the Government's review of the electoral system in the Legislative Council"

Executive Officer Comment:

In respect to the first resolution, WALGA's Electoral Reform Policy Forum met on 22 July 2021 and considered the Zones request for a social media campaign emphasising the importance of regional, rural and remote political representation. The Policy Team accepted the Zones request and a social media-based campaign is being developed to present the sector's position on this issue. An initial tactic of the

campaign will be to publish the perspective of regional Local Government on the potential outcomes in the monthly WALGA column in The West Australian.

In addition since the close of the submission period, the WALGA President has requested a meeting with the Minister for Electoral Affairs, Hon John Quigley MLA, to present the Local Government sector's views on this issue, and has written to all Members of Parliament to outline the sector's concerns and provide a copy of WALGA's submission.

WALGA will continue to keep the sector informed on developments relating to Electoral Reform relating to the Legislative Council.

In respect to the second resolution, a meeting has not been scheduled with Government Members for the Agricultural Region in the Legislative Council. The Committee believed that a meeting with Government Members for the Agricultural Region in the Legislative Council should be pursued.

The Executive Officer will contact Parliamentarians to look for suggested dates around early September 2021.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Len Armstrong

Seconded: Cr Phillip Blight

That the Executive Officer organise a meeting between the Executive Committee and Government Members for the Agricultural Region in Legislative Council, to discuss the Government's review of the electoral system in the Legislative Council.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Bill Mulroney

That the Zone endorse the recommendation from the Executive Committee to organise a meeting between the Executive Committee and Government Members for the Agricultural Region in Legislative Council, to discuss the Government's review of the electoral system in the Legislative Council.

CARRIED

5.3.2 Item 5.4, Strategic Priorities for the 2020/2021 Financial Year
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Background:

The Executive Committee discussed priority areas for the Zone to consider over the next 12 months. This will assist the Executive Officer in scheduling guest speakers and discussion around the priority items.

The Committee put forward the following items for the Zone to consider:

1. Local Government Act – New Act or Amendments
2. Red Tape Reduction
3. Regional Collaboration and resource sharing
4. Local Government staff shortages
5. Housing

Discussion was held on inviting the Minister for Local Government to a future Zone meeting to discuss Local Government Act amendments and Red Tape Reduction.

ZONE RECOMMENDATION:

Minutes Central Country Zone – 20 August 2021

Moved: Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: Cr Ian Turton

That the Central Country Zone endorse the following priority items for the Zone to address:

- 1. Local Government Act – New Act or Amendments**
- 2. Red Tape Reduction**
- 3. Regional Collaboration and resource sharing**
- 4. Local Government staff shortages**
- 5. Housing**

CARRIED

5.3.3 Item 5.4, Red Tape Reduction

Background:

The Minister for Local Government has advised that one of his priority reform items is around reducing red tape.

It is considered appropriate for Zone delegates and CEO's to identify potential red tape reduction items in priority order for the Zone to consider putting forward to the Minister.

ZONE RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Central Country Zone Local Governments submit items for the Zone to consider prioritising and submitting to the Zone Executive Officer no later than 30 September 2021 in respect to potential red tape reduction items.

CARRIED

5.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Wednesday 11 August 2021 (Attachment 3)

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 August 2021 are for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: Cr Bill Mulroney

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Wednesday 11 August 2021 be endorsed.

CARRIED

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA)
BUSINESS

Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council

6.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Phillip Blight

Cr Blight provided the State Councillor Report as attached (Attachment 7)

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: Cr Marilyn Hasleby

That the State Councillor Report be received

6.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer



BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for August 2021 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT AUGUST 2021

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT AUGUST 2021

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2021 25 June Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Template Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill (Draft) 2020	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Notes the suggestion from guest speaker Marcus Holmes, Principal of lawyers Land Equity Legal, that local governments defer consideration of entry into a Local Government version Noongar Heritage Agreement until Noongar Regional Corporations have been established, the Federal joint committee on the Juukan Gorge inquiry has released its final report, and the State's proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill has been enacted; and 2. Seeks ongoing consultation with the State Government, WALGA and SWALSC about the management of, resourcing and implications for local government of the Noongar Native Title Settlement.	On Thursday 17 June 2021 WALGA hosted a webinar update on the SWNTS for Local Government including presentations from SWALSC, DPC, DPLH, and Perpetual Trustees. The Template Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government (NHALG) has been negotiated between WALGA and SWALSC however due to the limited resources available to SWALSC at this time, SWALSC is not able to enter the Agreement with Local Governments. It is recommended that Local Governments follow the key elements of the NHALG/ Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement / Due Diligence Guidelines when addressing Aboriginal heritage matters. These align with current obligations under existing Aboriginal heritage legislation. Local Government can seek advice from DPLH when dealing with Aboriginal heritage matters.	August 2021	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	2021 25 June Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Discussion on Electoral Reform	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA undertake a social media campaign to emphasise the importance of regional, rural and remote political representation as detailed in its submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform.	WALGA is currently developing a communications strategy to support the sector submission endorsed by State Council.	August 2021	Zac Donovan Executive Manager, Finance and Marketing zdonovan@walga.asn.au 9213 2038

			<p>Critical to any communications strategy will be the active involvement and participation of regional Local Governments and their representatives.</p> <p>Initial planning has proposed that the policy group used to develop the sector submission will be engaged to lead the campaign.</p>		(Liaise with Tony Brown)
Central C	2021 7 July State Council Agenda Item 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications	That the Central Country Zone request that WALGA look to coordinate a "Meet the Minister Breakfast" at a suitable location within the region.	<p>The option to take the Meet the Minister breakfast event to regional areas has been presented to the Minister's office.</p> <p>The request for an event specific to the Central Country Zone will be highlighted for response.</p> <p>Critical to undertaking the event will be sufficient participation from all Local Governments and Elected Members in the zone.</p>	August 2021	Zac Donovan Executive Manager, Finance and Marketing zdonovan@walga.asn.au 9213 2038
Central C	2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin	That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.	<p>State Council agenda item 5.2 considers this issue and recommends as follows;</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services': <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i></p> 2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner 	June 2021	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

			services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.		
Central C	2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8 Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	<p>The resolution was been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

ZONE COMMENT

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Central Country Zone WALGA August 2021 Status Report be noted.

NOTED

6.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link [State Council Agenda September 2021](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 External Oversight of Local Level Complaints

That WALGA advocate for an external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.

Executive Officer Comment:

This item is consistent with the Zones recent position regarding opposing the new Model Code of Conduct provisions that have been recently introduced.

The recommendation is supportive of an external oversight body rather than Councillors considering other Councillors behavior complaints.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.2 Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services

That WALGA:

1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services':

WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and

2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims:

- a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and
- b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.

Executive Officer Comment:

This item was raised by the Central Country Zone and has been considered by WALGA's Governance and Organisational Services Policy team who have recommended an endorsed advocacy position requesting a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under *Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*.

Zone Comment:

It was questioned why Local Governments are investing so heavily into Medical Services that should be provided by the State. The Zone requested more advocacy with WA Health and other providers to limit the cost of Medical on the Local Government.

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.3 Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission

That the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on Phase 2 Planning Reform be endorsed.

Executive Officer Comment:

- Phase 2 of the *Action Plan for Planning Reform* has been released for comment by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). Phase 2 builds upon the reforms initiated through the Independent Planning Reform Team's Green Paper (2018) and the State Government's Action Plan for Planning Reform.
- Phase 2 proposes 28 reform initiatives under three overarching goals, while also requesting community and stakeholders submit their own ideas for additional reforms of the planning system.
- WALGA's submission provides a response to all relevant reform initiatives as well as detailed commentary on suggested further areas for reform. Broadly the Association's suggested reforms aim to enhance liveability and sustainability, as well as improve efficiency and role definition within the planning system.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

Matters for Noting

6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation

WALGA Recommendation:

That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted

Executive Officer Comment:

- State Council adopted a detailed position in relation to the Stop Puppy Farming Initiative, and subsequently sought the withdrawal of the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020 (the 2020 Bill).
- The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 (the 2021 Bill) was introduced on 2 June 2021.
- The 2021 Bill is substantially similar to the 2020 Bill but provides an exemption from sterilisation for livestock working dogs.

- There may be an opportunity to engage with DLGSC on remaining issues of significance to the sector, primarily cost recovery through fees and charges.

Zone Comment:

The Central Country Zone has opposed Puppy Farming draft legislation in the past. The Zone would be pleased that this draft bill does provide an exemption from sterilisation for livestock working dogs.

The Zone may wish to put forward an alternative recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That:

1, Any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government

2, the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at a minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index

CARRIED

6.2 Regional Telecommunications Resilience:

That the update on Regional Telecommunications Resilience be noted.

Executive Officer Comment:

- At the National level, WALGA continues to access the knowledge and influence of key parliamentarians to ensure all Western Australians can access equitable, affordable and reliable telecommunication that is appropriate for emergencies.
- The Association is contributing to a Working Group established at the request of the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, consisting of the State Government agencies of the Departments of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Power and Telecommunication providers seeking a collaborative approach to telecommunication resilience.
- Regional Telecommunications Review Issues Paper released 16 July 2021 with the Committee accepting submissions until 30 September 2021.
- Each WALGA Zone requested to consider the Regional Telecommunications Review as part of the Agenda for their August round of meetings.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 30 June meeting.

Executive Officer Comment:

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 30 June 2021.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

6.4 2021-22 State Budget Submission

That the Immediate Priorities for State Government policy platform, which was endorsed via Flying Minute, be noted.

Executive Officer Comment:

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The proposed approach to the 2021-22 Submission and priorities were endorsed by State Council in May via Flying Minute (Resolution 201.FM/2021).
- Since then, WALGA has received further information from the State Government about its focus for the budget and timeframes for the 2022-23 State Budget. As a result of this new information, WALGA has adjusted its approach to the State Budget Submission to ensure the initiatives have the best chance for success.
- While there has been no fundamental change to the priority initiatives, the context has been reframed. Instead of focusing just on the 2021-22 Budget, the document has shifted to a more strategic policy platform identifying the immediate spending priorities for the McGowan Government in its second term. It is intended that this submission would cover the next two budget periods, 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- The final submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (Resolution 205.FM/2021).

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

6.5 WALGA Submission: Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia

That the submission to the Standing Committee on Public Administration on the Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia, which was endorsed via Flying Minute, be noted.

Executive Officer Comment:

- The Standing Committee on Public Administration commenced an inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia on 23 June with submissions due by 23 July.
- Given the short time frame WALGA emailed all CEOs directly and put an article in LG News encouraging submissions and that WALGA would also make a submission if there was sufficient sector interest.
- Three regional Local Governments provided feedback to WALGA that expressed support for the current volunteer based ambulance system in regional Western Australia and highlighted the potential risk to service levels if it is taken over by the State Government.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (Resolution 206.FM/2021).

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

Key Activity Reports

7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications Unit

7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services

7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning

7.2 Policy Forum Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Barry West

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

CARRIED

6.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda. (Attachment 4)

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Jackie McBurney

Seconded: Cr Bill Mulroney

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report

CARRIED

6. ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Brett McGuinness

No report was provided at this meeting.

NOTED

7.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

By Cr Katrina Crute

No report was provided at this meeting.

NOTED

Minutes Central Country Zone – 20 August

7.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard

President Leigh Ballard provided his report to the Zone.

The next meeting will be held in October.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: Cr Tim Wiese

That the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Report and be received.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

8.1 Regional Telecommunications Review

By Jo Burges, Senior Advisor Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA

Background:

A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) is established every three years under Part 9B of the Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999 to conduct a review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

The Committee for the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review (the Review) was appointed on 1 June 2021.

The 2021 Committee is comprised of the Hon Luke Hartsuyker (Chair); Ms Kristy Sparrow; Professor Hugh Bradlow; Mr Michael Cosgrave; and Ms Sue Middleton.

The Committee is also conducting consultation sessions and as the dates for these are announced via their website Local Governments within the area being consulted are being advised via email of the upcoming process and encouraged to participate.

As part of the Review, the Committee will consider:

- the impact of Government policies and programs to improve regional connectivity and digital inclusion;
- insights from COVID-19 on the changing digital needs of regional, rural and remote areas;
- service reliability issues which impact regional communities and options for mitigating them;
- the role of emerging technologies in delivering telecommunications services in regional Australia;
- ways of encouraging further investment in regional telecommunications;
- the role of telecommunications in supporting broader regional development goals;
- ways to improve co-ordination between government and industry in telecommunications investment; and
- consumer awareness and education regarding telecommunications options in regional areas.

The full Terms of Reference for the Review are at Appendix B of the Issues Paper.
The Consultation Period runs from 6 July, 2021 09:00 to September 30, 2021 with WALGA receiving submissions until COB Thursday 16 September 2021.

WALGA Engagement Process

Local Governments were advised in mid-July, via Councillor Direct, of the appointment of the Committee and the release of the Issues Paper, and that WALGA would be developing a sector wide submission.

WALGA, in developing a submission to this important review is seeking the views of members to address the wide range of telecommunications issues outlined by the Committee in the [Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 – Issues Paper \(the Issues Paper\)](#)

Local Governments have been requested to provide their submissions or information to inform the sector wide submission to the Association to ensure all matters are addressed.

This agenda item provides a Zone level opportunity to provide feedback to the WALGA submission to assist in ensuring all Local Governments have had a chance for input.

Comment

Zones are requested, however not limited to, consider the items outlined at the dot points and /or the individual questions outlined at the end of each section or at Appendix A of the Issues Paper or provide input on any related matter for inclusion in the submission.

By way of example the WALGA Submission will include, in part, commentary on Question 12 that asks:

‘How can different levels of Government, the telecommunications industry and regional communities better co-ordinate their efforts to improve telecommunications in regional Australia?’

The Association response will include an example of the Regional Telecommunications Resilience Working Group established in May comprising key planning/technical staff from Telstra, Optus, Western Power, Horizon Power, WALGA, DFES and DPIRD. This working group will share data more openly to allow robust and coordinated planning which results in better overall service delivery and value for money for all concerned. The working group began its work in June 2021 and have scheduled monthly meetings that increase as Funding programs or issues emerge.

WALGA advocates on specific issues identified by its members at the Working Group, in particular to explore opportunities for sustainable solutions e.g. Stand Alone Power provision, utilising a combination of solar, batteries and generators.

The Association is keen to provide a comprehensive submission on this important matter and welcomes Zone input.

Zone Recommendation:

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Central Country Zone notes the Regional Telecommunication Review 2021.

8.2 2021 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

Background

With the bi annual Local Government elections being held Saturday, 16 October 2021, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 16 October 2021.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 5 November 2021.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2021 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2021 November Zone meeting.
- State Councillor Induction Session – morning of **1 December 2021**.
- New State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **1 December 2021**.
- The position of President and Deputy President of WALGA, will be elected at the March 2022 State Council Meeting.

In relation to the nominations and election process to be followed by each Zone in electing a representative and deputy representative to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are a nominated Zone delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*
3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to delegates.*
4. *All voting delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*
6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au.

Zone Recommendation:

Moved: Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Central Country Zone note the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

CARRIED

8.3 Drought advocacy update

Nicole Mathews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning

The following is an update on drought and WALGA's advocacy;

WALGA has made representations on this issue including to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Northern Australia; the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development and Food, Hydrogen Industry; and WA Federal Government members, including meetings between the WALGA Deputy President and Senators Dean Smith and Slade Brockman. WALGA has also met with Minister MacTiernan's Chief of Staff and WA Government officials.

Correspondence from Minister Littleproud received in October 2020 indicated that details of the Commonwealth's Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program were still being worked through with the WA Government, which was yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA subsequently sought an assurance that Minister MacTiernan remained committed to 'working with the Minister for Water to ensure WA local government optimally benefit from the Future Drought Fund'.

On 4 July 2021 it was announced that the WA Government had secured \$1.33 million of the \$9.85 million available under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program for 2021-22 to undertake planning for the Northern Midwest, Southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern Inland regions. This work will be led by Regional Development Commissions working with Local Governments and is due for completion by 30 June 2022. The WA Government has not provided a cash contribution towards this program.

On 3 February 2021 the WA Government announced a \$7.3 million infrastructure plan to upgrade and refurbish 70 community dams in the State's Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions with half to be funded from the National Water Grid Fund, however the State's application for funding was unsuccessful.

The WA Government has also made a request for funding as part of the National Water Grid Connections funding round, which will provide \$20 million for each state and territory to deliver projects with a Commonwealth contribution of up to \$5 million per project. A decision on this funding is expected by end August.

On 15 April 2021, the Commonwealth announced that an additional \$2.8 million would be provided to pay rebates for eligible water infrastructure installed on-farm to all WA farmers who submitted their application prior to 20 January 2021.

In addition, WALGA was advised on 11 August 2021 that the State Government has been successful in securing National Water Grid Connections funding for 9 projects (spanning Water Corporation, DPIRD and DWER):

- Cave Springs Road Tail Water Return System

Two water recycling systems will be constructed in the Ord River Irrigation Area resulting in 2400 megalitres per annum of water savings.

- Agricultural Area Dams and Strategic Community Water Supplies

Infrastructure facilities will be constructed including pipework, tanks, solar pumps and standpipes at 70 dam sites. This will increase resilience and water security in farming communities in the region.

- Katanning to Kojonup Pipeline Enhancement

A number of sections of the existing pipeline between Katanning and Kojonup will be replaced, increasing water reliability and supply to all farmland customers.

- Jerramungup Dam Catchment Improvement

Degraded bitumen will be replaced with plastic liner enabling increased runoff and water storage, and improving reliability to almost 100 per cent of water users in the Jerramungup catchment.

- Gascoyne Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Modernisation

Essential infrastructure in the Gascoyne region will be upgraded, including additional production bores and modernisation of irrigation systems. This will increase horticultural production capability in the region.

- Community Water Supplies Partnership Program with Local Government

Up to 40 new and improved non-potable water supplies will be developed in priority areas for farming communities to access.

- Ravensthorpe Dam Catchment Extension

The catchment area of the Ravensthorpe dam will be increased by 5 hectares, increasing the volume of water in the dam by approximately 7 megalitres per annum.

- Cranbrook Dam Catchment Improvement

Degraded bitumen will be replaced in Cranbrook Dam 1 catchment, increasing the volume of water in the dam by 15 megalitres per annum, for agricultural and primary industry use.

- Wongutha Independent Water Security Pilot

A small-scale, solar powered water reverse osmosis desalination system pilot will be installed, producing an additional 7.3 megalitres per annum of fresh water.

Total funding for these projects is \$43.8 million, \$23.8 million State Government and other partners, \$20 million Commonwealth.

- In addition with assistance from ALGA, WALGA has secured a seat on the Commonwealth Agriculture Minister's Meeting Working Group on Drought which has representatives from the Commonwealth, all State/Territory Jurisdictions, National Farmers Federation and ALGA.
- Finally, on the Drought Resilience Planning Program, given Minister MacTiernan's decision to direct this funding to Regional Development Commissions rather than Local Governments, I've had initial discussions with DPIRD regarding the need for Local Governments to be involved in

the process. I understand that DPIRD was meeting with the Regional Development Commissions last week and I expect to have further information in the next week or so.

NOTED

8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding

By Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy WALGA

Background

The \$319 million [Social Housing Economic Recovery Package \(SHERP\)](#) is part of the State Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan announced in June 2021.

The Program aims to provide safe and secure housing outcomes for vulnerable Western Australians by supporting the construction of new community housing properties and the refurbishment of existing properties to extend their useful life or increase their capacity. Grants are also available to fund maintenance works within remote Aboriginal communities.

Local Governments are eligible to apply for SHERP grants and partner with existing social housing providers and community groups within their communities.

The next round of SHERP funding opens on Monday 1 September 2021.

Comment

Further information on the eligibility requirements and application process for the SHERP grants will be provided by the Department of Communities at a webinar to be hosted by WALGA on **Wednesday 1 September** from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

Local Government officers wishing to attend the register for the Webinar [here](#) or through the [WALGA events page](#).

The Livestream presentation from the 11th August is available to view on the Department of Communities website and provides valuable information about the grant process.

In preparation for the session, we encourage local governments to:
Visit the Department of Communities website on the 1st September to familiarise yourself with the grant guidelines, application process and frequently asked questions.

Submit any questions you have in advance through the registration form. There will also be the opportunity to ask additional questions on the day.

Further information on the SHERP program is available on the [Department of Communities website](#) or by contacting Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy, WALGA on 0429 483 273 or kmcmanus@walga.asn.au.

Zone Recommendation:

Moved: Cr Des Hickey

Seconded: Cr Marilyn Hasleby

1. That the Zone notes:

- **Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.**

- The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021.
- The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September.

2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.

CARRIED

8.5 Road Hierarchy for Western Australia – Draft Revision

Background:

Main Roads is seeking comment on a draft revision of the Road Hierarchy for Western Australia and the procedures for Local Government to request updates.

This revision was prompted by requests from Local Governments to add an additional category of “Special Use” road to the hierarchy, to include Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Neighbourhood Roads and Central City Area Roads

The secondary criteria for road classification and update procedures were also revised.

The draft hierarchy and update procedures, including a summary of the proposed changes, can be found [here](#). Comments can be emailed to [Main Roads](#) before Friday, **3 September**.

Comment:

- The Road Hierarchy had not been reviewed for over 10 years.
- Main Roads received requests for proposed changes to Special Use roads, and initiated a review to include these additions.
- As part of this review, we took the opportunity to suggest updated indicative traffic volumes to align more closely with the DPLH [Liveable Neighbourhoods 2015 \(Draft\)](#) document (Element 2 – Movement network – pp 39-40)
- Note that indicative traffic volumes are **not** the primary criteria for determining RH – they are secondary criteria and used as a guide only.
- If the majority of LGs have no appetite for the proposed changes, these will remain as they currently are.
- Alternatively, Local Governments may wish to suggest different indicative traffic volumes, perhaps between the current and proposed volumes.
- The non-Built Up Area proposed changes (not included in the LN document) are based on the work we have undertaken with both *Significant Local Government Roads*, and the Rural Road Classification criteria. (Note that these proposed volumes at ‘Up to’ and not prescriptive.)

WALGA are seeking to consult with members. Nothing is being imposed on Local Governments. Zone Local Governments may wish to engage on the issue and provide a recommendation.

Zone Recommendation:

Moved: President Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Cr Greg Ball

That the CCZ Zone of WALGA, representing its 15 member Councils, support the draft with the following changes:

That all road traffic volumes / thresholds be retained as follows:

- **Regional Distributor** – retained at above 100 vpd; and
- **Local Distributor** – retained at from below 100 vpd (non- Built Up Areas); and
- **Access road** – retained at from below 75 vpd (non- Built Up Areas).

CARRIED

8. ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

9. ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

10. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region presented to the Zone.

Shelley's contact details are as below:

Shelley.Payne@mp.wa.gov.au

92 Dempster Street, Esperance WA 6450

(08) 9072 1786

@ShelleyPayneAg

11. OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

12.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

NIL

12.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission
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NIL

2.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Sanjeev Gupta, Development and Delivery Manager, Main Roads, provided an update to the Zone. A report was tabled prior to the meeting, now attached as Attachment 5.

NOTED

12.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone.
Her report is now attached (Attachment 8)

NOTED

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held in Wandering on Friday 19 November 2021, commencing at 9.30am.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.15am